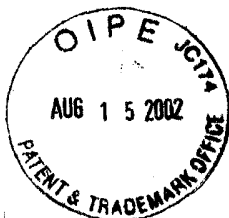


1512-110  
GRR/mys



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#10/Election,  
Hawkins  
8/23/02

In re Application of )

Arnim Littek )

Application No. 09/743,959 )

Examiner: Karen B. Addison )

Filed: January 18, 2001 )

Group Art Unit: 2834 )

For: OFFSET ARRANGEMENT OF ELECTRODES  
ON A PIEZOELECTRIC TRANSDUCER

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231


Dear Sir:

In an Office Action dated July 17, 2002, claims 1-24, were subjected to a restriction requirement. With respect to restriction between Group I and Group III, this requirement is respectfully traversed.

It is submitted that Group I and Group III relate to a single general inventive concept. The method claims (Group III) relate to a method of shaping a transducer by cutting the transducer. If a conventional transducer (with a pair of contiguous electrodes printed on each side of the sheet) is cut, then a short circuit can be created between the electrodes during cutting (i.e. an electrical circuit between the electrodes is completed by the cutting implement). See page 1 of the present application, lines 25-29. The transducer of claim 1 is specifically designed to solve this problem by offsetting the electrodes on the opposite sides of the piezoelectric member. That is, Group I and Group III are linked in the sense that the transducer of Group I is especially adapted for use in the method of Group III. It is submitted that the two groups therefor qualify as a single invention.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that Groups I and III should be examined together, and elects this combination for examination on the merits. In the event that Group I and Group III will not be examined together, Applicant elects Group I with traverse.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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